



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

City of Tacoma, WA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Tacoma for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the federal Enterprise Community encompassing the downtown, port, and South Tacoma Way industrial areas in the Nalley Valley district. Residents living in the Enterprise Community (population 20,500) have a reported average poverty rate of 41 percent. Half of the total Enterprise Community population lives within the downtown or Hilltop areas, which has a large minority population. The City of Tacoma is also the recipient of a Brownfields Assessment Pilot.

Historically, Tacoma grew as a result of intense industrial development, including fishing, logging, mining, and other related manufacturing industries. By 1980, industrial development had waned significantly, leaving many sites vacant and a legacy of soil and sediment contamination. Tacoma's emphasis on redevelopment of brownfields within its core port and downtown areas has resulted in a local building boom. Contractors working on these sites report difficulty in locating trained workers to perform assessment and remediation activities. The Job Training Pilot offers the community an opportunity to obtain good-paying jobs and develop a pool of skilled

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Tacoma,
Washington*

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 45 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from low-income residents of the downtown, port, and South Tacoma Way portions of the federal Enterprise Community, within which the City is actively redeveloping brownfields left behind by a long history of industrial activity.

Contacts:

City of Tacoma
(253) 594-5933

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 10
(206) 553-7299

Visit the EPA Region 10 Brownfields web site at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/9f3c21896330b4898825687b007a0f33/>

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For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

local workers to meet this demand.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The City of Tacoma plans to train 45 participants, achieve an 80 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from low-income residents of the downtown, port, and South Tacoma Way areas. The Pilot training program will consist of 184 hours of environmental technician training over six months. Training modules will include environmental chemistry, HAZWOPER, industrial chemical spill response, environmental sampling methods, environmental site assessment, introduction to soils, watershed analysis, surface and groundwater hydrology, and hazardous waste site operations, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The City of Tacoma's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Metropolitan Development Council, Clover Park Technical College, Private Industry Council, Western Washington Operating Engineers, Tacoma's Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP), and Saltbush Environmental Services, Inc. Local employers have committed to hiring graduates of the Pilot program.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents of the downtown, port, and South Tacoma Way portions of the federal Enterprise Community;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.